

Applicant: P. Bonutti  
Application No.: 09/941,327  
Examiner: V. Bui

**Election/Restriction:**

If no generic claim is finally held to be allowable, Applicant hereby provisionally elects, with traverse, the following species with reference to the categories set forth in the Office Action: Species 5, representative Figure 6.

In accordance with the Examiner's request, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claims 1, 2, 12-15, and 17 and new claims 23-36 read on the elected species.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 12-15, 17, and 23-36 are pending in the application and are presented for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claims 1, 2, 12-15, and 17 have been amended, claims 3-11, 16, and 18-22 have been cancelled, and claims 23-36 have been added. Applicant believes the claim amendments, cancellations, additions, and the accompanying remarks herein serve to clarify the present invention and are independent of patentability. No new matter has been added.

Applicant has provisionally elected Species 5, with traverse. Further, Applicant has provided a list of all claims readable thereon. Also, Applicant respectfully submits new claims 23-36, drawn to Species 5.

Additionally, the specification has been amended to correct a spelling error. No new matter has been added.

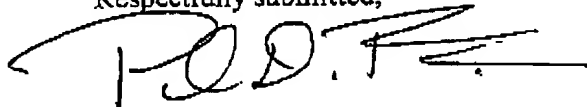
In light of the foregoing remarks, this application is now in condition for an examination on the merits, and early action is respectfully requested.

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If any questions remain regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Please charge any required fee (or credit any overpayments of fees) to the Deposit Account of the undersigned, Account No. 500601 (Docket no. 795-A02-006).

Respectfully submitted,



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